

"Filled Up!"

Text: Acts 2:4a, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Today is Pentecost Sunday. The word Pentecost is from the Greek word, pentecoste or pentecostos, meaning fiftieth. The first Pentecost was 50 days after the Passover in AD 30, and it fell on Sunday May 28th. Tradition has it that the events of Pentecost took place in the upper room in Jerusalem. The upper room was where Jesus and his disciples gathered together on the first day of the week. The upper room was a large room with a high ceiling and a balcony. The room was filled with people, including Jesus, his twelve apostles, and some other believers. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the believers in the upper room. The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. The believers also experienced a sense of divine power and guidance. The upper room became a place of great spiritual significance for the early Christians.

The opening events must have taken place there, and the remainder of the events must have been out of doors. In the 1st chapter they are assembled in the upper room. We read in the 2nd chapter "they ~~were~~ were all together." And while they are thus assembled "there came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting." The word for this wind is *Pneuma* which means either air or breath. You may recognize it as being a part of the English word which has to do with compressed air *pneumatic*, or *pneumonia*, which has to do with ~~expressed~~ *inflammation*, a disease of the respiratory organs. If we use the word in the sense that it is Breath, then we can see that this rush of a mighty wind was the very "Breath of God" that came upon them and into their midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. What took place was a phenomenon that has never been fully explained. Barclay passes it off as being some sort of unintelligible gibberish. David Alexander in Erdmans Handbook of the Bible states, "Normally the Apostles difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone ~~in~~ in this mixed ~~gram~~ audience heard his own language being spoken." The Galilean ~~spak~~ dialect was uniquely identifiable. We can read of this in Luke's account of Peter's denial of Jesus, when a man accused Peter of

being with Jesus by stating, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." Peters speech had given him away. ~~thus it is impossible~~  
~~that this group of Galileans~~ But if we really want to know what took place, we need to take the Scripture reference and read it for ourselves. The Scripture states very plainly that all of these ~~people~~ Jews who had been living in different parts of the then known world, and who all spoke different languages, were being spoken to by these Galileans in their own native tongue and not in Aramaic.

Barclay and all of the other interpreters who want to explain away the mighty power of God may do so. But I firmly believe that we need to accept that which we cannot completely understand as the sovereignty and majesty of Almighty God. Jesus said, "With God all things are possible," and this we need to believe and accept.

We need to understand what speaking in tongues really means because it's been misused and is questioned very seriously today. When the Disciples were given this gift on Pentecost it was so that they could speak to others in the language that they understood. The speaking in tongues movement is still prevalent today in what we know as the Pentecostal churches. But much of this is not legitimate, because the people who supposedly are speaking in tongues are merely speaking a gibberish that someone supposedly interprets. Most people question the validity of this and with good reason. If we ask the question why we do not have speaking in tongues today, we need to also ask why we would need it? Would it prove anything this morning if I were to begin speaking to you in Latin or Greek? Of course not, and this is the answer. God does not want me to talk to you in anything except English, because this is what we speak and what we understand. There have been cases <sup>on record recently</sup> that ~~have read about~~ where a person in a group of worshipers will suddenly <sup>on some other foreign language</sup> begin to speak in French or Latin, and when it was checked into the person who spoke had never taken the language in school, and upon further checking <sup>with them</sup> it was learned that there were people ~~there~~ who could not speak English and thus the French or Latin was beneficial to them and they were able to hear

the gospel in their native tongue.

The real purpose of this speaking in tongues was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not to show off how wonderful they were. What made it all possible was the indwelling of God's Holy spirit, and they were people who were literally filled with the Spirit. In fact they were so filled, they were accused of being drunk. To which Peter gave them the answer that it was only 9:00 AM and impossible for them to be drunk. He went on to explain that this was the indwelling of the Holy spirit as promised by Jesus Christ.

J Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Christmas is the festival of God with us; Pentecost is God in us." To which he adds the question, "Is God more with us than in us?" Which is a very good question, for if God is more in us ~~than we are filled~~ then we can be literally filled up. Filled up with the spirit. But we must remember that we cannot fill ourselves, this can only be done by God. So then we must put ourselves in the way of being filled.

But when we talk of being filled up with the spirit, we must realize that this is not just one set thing that happens to everyone. Being filled up with the spirit manifests itself in different ways in different people. Look at the Apostles and see in them the vast differences that existed in their ministries and lives. Peter was an altogether different person than Paul. But Peter was just as effective in his own way as Paul. Stephen was different from Timothy or Barnabas. Look at the vast difference between Matthew, ~~John~~, and ~~Mark~~ John. Each of them lived and worked with Jesus and yet their Gospels tell an altogether different story of Jesus and the things they wanted to impart about him. This is a good example of how the Holy spirit works in each person in a unique and different way.

So when we speak of the Holy spirit, many good Christians are not completely aware of what is being said, because for too long they have thought of the Holy spirit as something mysterious and elusive that is only evident ~~in the lives of preachers~~

is our coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. So is spirit, and those who worship him, must worship in ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST spirit & truth  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PENTECOST

JUNE 2, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JOEL MARTEI, MARCIA McBRIDE - ACOLYTE

-----  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" READ  
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNN

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 322 "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

\*ASCRITON - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNION) TO LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL, WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT displeasing TO THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS AND CONSCiences, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND, WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY AND FEARLESSLY UNTO THEE. AMEN.

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

"PASTOR: TO LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY NO. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 2: 1-21

HYMN NO. 188 "HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

"PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

"PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

FERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO"

KUHLAN

ANTHEM: "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT" - WOMEN'S CHORUS - DYKES  
SERMON: "FILLED UP!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 193 "SPIRIT OF GOD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIOINAL" DUNN

----- "CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. ANN WILLIAMS IN MEMORY OF "HUSBAND" - WOODY.

SERVING AS UPHOLDERS TODAY ARE: ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REEDMAN, DAN DOKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL REEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT

THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER,  
LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE McBRIDE.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN GUSTEAD 525, MRS. HOMER  
BEATTY 624. PVT. KEITH TAIT, TRIPLEX ARMY HOSPITAL,  
AFO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96438.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ALTEMUS - FORMER  
CHERYL (GILLILAND) ON A NEW BABY GIRL - NOW LIVING IN  
EVANS CITY.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS.  
W. A. (GLADYS) WINTERS WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK. ALSO  
MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY BRIGH CIRCLE MEETING. MR.  
WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE  
ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC PICNIC & MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - 6:00 -  
ON JUNE 14 - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED.

MONDAY - JUNE 10 - 7:30 P.M. - MRS. ARTHUR Houser will  
be here for a Teachers Training Course. All Officers,  
Teachers and interested people are requested to be  
here.

TODAY IS PENTECOST - A TIME TO REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO INSPIRED THE FIRST APOSTLES  
AND WHO EMPOWERS THE CHURCH TODAY TO CARRY ON CHRIST'S  
WORK. A PAMPHLET "TIME TO REJOICE!" WILL BE DISTRIB-  
UTED TODAY ALONG WITH THE BULLETIN FROM THE STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL. IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THE GENERAL  
SYNOD HAS ASKED CONGREGATIONS TO OBSERVE PENTECOST  
AS A TIME OF SPECIAL FOCUS ON OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD  
MISSION.

AT 10:00 A.M. - 1974

... birds I hear a call to. That which I  
cannot comprehendably move, and as I rovingly a whi-  
ever of God.  
I said, "with God all things possible,"  
thus we need accept & believe.

We need understand a speak in tongues what really mean  
if we misused & questioned seriously today.  
When disc given gift on mount was so could speak  
others own language they understood.  
Speak tongues move still prevalent today  
this in church we call pentecostal.  
Much this not legitimate, many peop supposedly  
speak tongue, speak gibberish,  
& many peop interpret really to not.

Most peop question validity with good reason.  
If we ask quest why we no have speak tongue today,  
also need ask, "Why we need it?"  
would prove anything if I spoke German, Greek etc  
this morning?

Course not, is this answer.

God want's speak Eng. cause that we speak  
There cases on record recent group worshipers, one  
speak foreign tongue.

That ched person no took language school, a  
further check show person there speak that language.

Thus the foreign tongue so they understand.

(Illustration Florida, Italian, Spanish, German)  
Real purpose speak tongue, to spread Gospel Js Xp.

not show off how wonderful they were.

What made all possib was indwell Holy Sp.  
(They peop literally filled Holy Sp.

Fact so filled, peop that drunk  
To which Ietc explained only 9:00 AM imposs be  
drunk  
I went on explain this manifestation of Sp,  
which Js preict.

Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Amas festival  
of God with us; sent is God in us."  
To which add quest, "Is God more with us, than in  
Good quest.

If God more in us, we literally filled up.

Filled Up with Sp.

I must remember cannot fill selves,

This only done by God

We not put se ves in the position to be filled  
when talk be filled up, must realize no one set way  
happen every ne.

"Filled Up!"

Text: Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the  
Holy Spirit."

Today pentecost,  
This from Greek πεντεκοστή, meaning 50th.  
Pentecost 50 days after Passover Ad 30,  
it fall on May 23rd.

Tradition has it 1st Iente took place Upper Room  
in 1st chap read they assembled there.

2nd chap read, "They were all together."

While they were assembled, "There came the  
sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it  
filled all of the house where they were sitting."

Sp' were wind is ΑΝΕΜΟΣ which mean air or breath.  
Perhaps you caught English word taken from it,  
Inhalation which compressed air,  
or Inflammation which respiratory disease.

The word in sense ΑΝΕΜΟΣ rush of air as  
breath, then we can see it breath of God, that come  
into list.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Sp.  
and be up to speak in other to give, as the Sp gave  
the utterance."

That took place was phenomenon never fully explained.

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Dave Alexander in Marthas handbook of Bible,  
normally the lastest difficult Galilean speech

would have been hard to follow. Now to their as-

tonishment, everyone in this mixed audience heard

Own language being spoken."

Galilean dialect was uniquely identifiable  
we read Js in Luke account Peter denial Js

man accuse Peter bein with Js stating,

"Certainly this is man also was with hi; for he is

a Galilean."

Before we go we him away.

But if really want know what took place, we must  
read scripture reference for selfs

Scripture state very plainly all of these Jews who

had best living in all parts then known world, all

spoke different languages.

They are now being spoken to by these Galileans in

their own native tongue and not in Aramaic or Hebr

Barclay & all other interpreters who want explain

why the Sp power of God, may do so.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
Ethan and Alica in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Married: December 15, 1951

Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill

Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Diety of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.